

Letheringham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
on Monday 27th November 2017 at Easton & Letheringham Village Hall

In Attendance

Terry Carlin (TC) (Chairman & Financial Officer)
Jean Barker (JB)
Maurice Finch (MF)
Matthew Bickerton (MB)
Richard Gooding (RG)

David Allan (DA) (Clerk)

Public Attendance:

Jan McNeill

Public Forum commenced at 7.45pm

JM refers to contact with Suffolk Coastal regarding responses to the Local Plan Review.

The issue of clearance of the Deben River was raised, given the duckweed that had been present since July in quantities not seen for a very long period of time. Previously, clearance was effected with machinery in September, but this has not been done for 3-4 years, presumably due to budget cuts.

TC Queried whether the change of practice arose from environmental issues and the desire to promote flooding upstream. JM stated she had been told it was due to budget issues, and this was endorsed by RG, who stated that they had cleared some of the growth by Letheringham Mill. JM referred to the impact on wildlife and the less frequent sightings of Swans and Kingfishers, and referred to an Ecologist attending on Thursday to view the River. MF referred to the detrimental impact on the river, and to oxygen levels being tested at Sanctuary Bridge. MF referred to Bulrushes creeping into the river and clogging it up, while TC referred to the lack of any sightings of otters at Sanctuary Bridge, in contrast to previous years, which was corroborated by RG.

MF made reference to the river being kept artificially high due to the sluice at the Mill, with heavy rain resulting in clearance, but its absence resulting in this not happening. RG commented that the sluice machinery had been renewed, and referred to delays in the clearance of fallen trees and the difficulties of residents and landowners tackling this without specialist equipment. JM referred to the forthcoming meeting, and suggested a push for clearances to be resumed which met with unanimous agreement

The Meeting opened at 8.07pm

2017.47 Apologies

Apologies received from Carol Poulter.

2017.48 Declaration of Interests

None.

2017.49 Approval of Minutes & Matters Arising

Minutes of LPC meeting on 25th September 2017 approved unanimously and signed by TC

2017.50 Matters of Report

A Cheque for £20 had been received from Norse following the Village Litter Pick, payable to our nominated charity, Community Heartbeat Trust. DA to pass onto PL and to look at arrangements for the Litter Pick in 2018.

The latest Police information was reviewed, with the usual observation that the data was too out of date and unspecific to provide any real insight, although there did not appear to be any recent incidents within Letheringham.

2017.51 Planning & Licensing Applications and Issues

DA referred to recent conversations with Sue Piggott, the Chair of Easton Parish Council regarding their response to the Local Plan Review [attached at Annex C], including their assertion that there was already development in excess of that suggested by the proposals, as well as their intention to use funds from recent developments to conduct a Neighbourhood Plan.

RG raised concerns about Government pressure of District Councils and Parishes, while TC commented that this was largely an issue for London and large urban areas, with far less pressure elsewhere. RG raised concerns about Parish and local Councils being 'out manoeuvred' and TC agreed, with reference to alarming comments regarding changes to make it easier to get approval for planning applications.

The question of whether to get involved with the Easton Neighbourhood Plan was raised. TC referred to Letheringham being designated as open countryside in the absence of such a plan, while MB observed that developers were building on open countryside, although TC referred to these being contiguous with Service Centres, whereas Letheringham had no indigenous services and therefore fell into a different category. MB responded that this could result in the building of a smaller number of larger houses, which TC agreed could happen in principle, but referred to a similar situation in which permission had been refused.

TC confirmed that the language used by the District Council pointed to a change in policy that might facilitate building on open countryside, but the length and format of the Report made it difficult to clarify details. MB referred to the lack of expertise on a local and Parish Council level, in contrast to those employed by large-scale developers. TC referred to his response to the first stage of the Local Plan, with reference to the absence of any economic plan to support the proposed expansion of housing, the lack of contingency for events such as Brexit, including the failure to consider the impact on employment demand for housing in areas such as Felixstowe in the event of a move away from the EU.

MB reiterated his concern regarding exploitation by developers, and TC referred to engagement with the second stage of the consultation, which MB commented that the parish Council should get fully involved in, and confirmed his willingness to attend relevant meetings once details had been clarified.

There were no specific planning applications in Letheringham requiring consideration.

2017.52 Phone Box & Defibrillator

The issue of cleaning and painting was raised, which DA commented was becoming a regular feature in Agendas and Meetings! By general agreement, it was resolved to address maintenance issues in the Spring, with PL and JM having volunteered previously. It was agreed that this issue would be revisited in the Agenda for January's Meeting.

2017.53 B1078

TC referred to recent emails regarding quotations for Speed Indication Devices. An issue had arisen as the location was not one with a 30mph limit, which appeared to cause difficulties for suppliers. Two suppliers had provided quotes, Swarco at £2,998.50 plus VAT and Westcotec at £2625 plus VAT for a 'smiley face' sign or £2,800 plus VAT for a 'slow down' sign.

Neither had responded to requests for further details, or in particular the calibration of signs for distance and therefore the length of time for which they would be activated, nor the impact of this on battery life. TC expressed concerns about this issue, and referred to battery-life problems experienced with signs placed elsewhere, including Wickham Market, Easton and Aldeburgh, due to their activation for longer period than was actually required or anticipated. RG confirmed that the SID in Easton had been taken down, leaving just a bare pole in place.

DA referred to conversations with Sue Piggott regarding the possibility of sharing a sign with Easton that could be moved between the two locations, but this was considered impracticable as Easton would require a 30mph limit sign that was not suitable for the B1078 placement.

TC referred to the lack of response by suppliers to the questionnaire that had been provided, and MB confirmed the need to ascertain details about battery longevity before any decision was made. TC observed that the data provided was two years old, and referred only to the number of cars.

TC undertook to look at other suppliers and to chase up clarification from the two suppliers referred to previously. It was observed that, since the installation of the chevrons and improved signage, there had been no major incidents, which potentially called into question the basis for pursuing the SIDs given the difficulties and expense involved. It was resolved that the matter would be revisited at the next Meeting in the light of additional information and clarification received by that time.

With regard to the type of sign to be considered and raised with potential suppliers, there was unanimous agreement that one displaying 'slow down' and changing to '30 max' in a white roundel, triggered by speeds at or in excess of 45 mph, was preferable to the alternative sign displaying a smiley or sad face.

2017.54 Financial Reports

2017.54.1 Invoices for Payment

Cheques for Community Action Suffolk (£50 plus £10 VAT) for hosting of the website on the onesuffolk platform, and for Letheringham PCC (£150) were unanimously agreed and authorised, and the cheques (numbered 100260 and 100261 respectively) were drafted and

signed by MB and MF. MB agreed to pass on the cheque for the PCC and to obtain and receipt, and DA agreed to do likewise with regard to the cheque for CAS.

2017.54.2 Monthly Report

TC presented an updated Accounts and Financial Report [attached at Annexes A and B] showing opening balances of £5,732.19 (£5,465.09, including the Precept payment but excluding the cheques drafted, and £267.10), and a consolidated total of £5,529.19 after taking into account the Precept payment and the cheques issued. This balance was checked against the relevant bank statements and agreed by MF, and a Minute reference endorsed accordingly.

2017.54.3 Precept

DA referred to recent correspondence from SCDC regarding options for the 2018/19 Precept. These involved maintaining the Precept at the same level (£1,200.00), which would involve a 3.17% decrease on Council Tax bills for the Parish element, increase the Precept to £1,239.41, which would give rise to a 0% change on the Council Tax Bill, or to increase the Precept beyond that, giving rise to a positive increase on Council tax bills.

It was resolved unanimously that there was no need to increase the Precept, and TC confirmed that the current Precept level was sufficient to meet existing and projected expenditure. Accordingly, it was resolved to maintain the Letheringham Parish Council Precept at £1,200, and DA undertook to confirm this in writing to the SCDC.

2017.55 Easton Parish Council - Local Plan

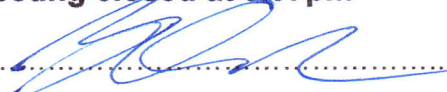
DA read a letter received from Easton PC regarding their decision to conduct a Neighbourhood Plan. This had previously been addressed under Planning and Licensing.

2017.56 Meeting Dates

The dates suggested in the Agenda were agreed, subject to any alteration required to facilitate the attendance of Carol poulter, who appeared to be regularly engaged elsewhere on Monday evenings. DA to clarify position with CP. No other issue with proposed dates:

- Monday, January 29th Parish Council Meeting
- Monday, March 26th Parish Council Meeting
- Monday, May 21st Annual Parish Council Meeting
- Monday, July 23rd Parish Council Meeting
- Monday, September 24th Parish Council Meeting
- Monday, November 26th Parish Council Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.07pm

Signed.....

Date..... 29/1/2018

Next Meeting: Scheduled for the 27th November 2017 at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall

Appendices follow:

- A Financial Report as at 27th November 2017
- B: Letheringham Parish Accounts as at 27th November 2017
- C: Copy of Easton PC Response to Local Plan Review

Letheringham Parish Council**Financial Report as 27th November 2017****Cheques presented for payment at this meeting**

	date	chq #	amount
Community action Suffolk	27/11/2017	100260	£60.00
churchyard fund	27/11/2017	100261	£150.00

Income received

SCDC precept	29/09/2017	£600.00
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Current position before cheques are paid

Community Account	£4,865.09
Business Premium Account	£267.10
TOTAL	£5,132.19

Current position after cheques are paid

Community Account	£5,255.09
Business Premium Account	£267.10
TOTAL	£5,522.19

Expenditure approved minute 2017.54.2 refers
Date 27/11/2017

Letheringham Parish Accounts statement of account as at November 27th 2017

COMMUNITY ACCOUNT #50571423				(2017-2018)					
date	Cheque no	debit	credit	total	vat	account statement	statement date		
C/F from 2016-2017				£2,851.86					
SCDC precept	26/04/2017		£600.00	£3,451.86					
HMRC VAT rebate	21/04/2017		£500.02	£3,951.88		£3,951.88	27/04/2017		
SALC membership fees	12/06/2017	£34.22		£3,917.66					
Community action Suffolk (web site)	12/06/2017	£60.00		£3,857.66	£10.00				
Insurance (came & co)	25/09/2017	£168.00		£3,689.66					
Village Hall contribution	25/09/2017	£50.00		£3,639.66					
Locality fund grant	25/09/2017		£1,225.43	£4,865.09					
SCDC precept	29/09/2017		£600.00	£5,465.09					
BDO audit invoice	29/09/2017	£0.00		£5,465.09		£5,465.09	27/11/2017		
Community action Suffolk (web site)	27/11/2017	£60.00		£5,405.09	£10.00				
churtyard fund		£150.00		£5,255.09					
village hall hire									
YTD total debits/ credits									
		total grant funding received for SID signs £1100 +1225.23							
		total 2325.23							

BUSINESS SAVER ACCOUNT #50571431							
transaction	date	Payments	Receipts/ interest payments	Balance		Bank statement	statement date
c/f 01/04/2017				£267.10		£267.01	13/12/2016
	12/06/2017			£267.10		£267.10	09/06/2017
	25/07/2017			£267.10		£267.10	25/07/2017
	27/11/2017			£267.10		£267.10	27/06/2017

note statement 27/11/2017 is an online statement print out

Total account balances			
date	Community Account	business premium account	Total funds available
21/05/2017	£3,951.88	£267.10	£4,218.98
12/06/2017	£3,857.66	£267.10	£4,124.76
25/09/2017	£4,865.09	£267.10	£5,132.19
27/11/2017	£5,255.09	£267.10	£5,522.19

LPC		ASSET REGISTER	
Capital asset	Value (£)	Comment	
Village sign	£1,469.00	Sign insured for public liability and replacement cost £4000	
Phone box	£1.00	Replacement value £1000	
Salt Box	£67.00	Replacement value £100	
Millennium seat	£485.00	Replacement value £500	
defibrillator	£2,130.00	replacement value £2130	
village notice board	£500.00	replacement value £500	
Total	£4,652.00	total replacement £8230	

Easton Parish Council

Oakburn
 Harriers Walk
 Easton
 Woodbridge
 Suffolk
 IP13 0HA
 sue.e.piggott@btinternet.com

12.9.17

Mr M Edgerley
 Principle Planner
 Planning Policy Team
 East Suffolk House
 Melton
 Suffolk

Dear Mr Edgerley

Re: - LOCAL PLAN REVIEW – 2017 – EASTON PC RESPONSE

I write for and on behalf of Easton Parish Council. Following the Parish Council meeting on 11th September their response is as follows:

Easton is a village of predominantly linear design. The village has Conservation status and is surrounded by Historic Parkland and designated countryside, it is a village set in a river valley with the river Deben flowing within proximity to the village and which has a need for its flood meadow land when under pressure. Due to the geographical topography of the village and constraints of its Historical Parkland, Conservation status and listed buildings Easton is unable to offer provision for a high number increase of housing and business. It has poor infrastructure which must also be recognised.

Easton has taken on housing growth which meets and surpasses the level given within the existing Local Plan duration for 2013 to 2027 which gives 15 to 20. It has a development of 14 dwellings, and 4 individual dwellings. It has Planning permission granted for 2 barn conversion dwellings with 5 further awaiting determination. In addition to these, individual and small clusters of housing could possibly be absorbed within the period ending 2036, providing they were sited at suitable locations.

The response below reflects the points made above, they are alongside the consideration that appropriate leisure and tourism development could be absorbed ie plot 738.

A14 corridor – The response for the core development district is that the A14 corridor is the preferred option. Infrastructure for the ports and road transport enable sustainable employment with housing that links into jobs and infrastructure.

PLOT 9
 0.2 – unspecified

PLOT 63 (530) – Unsuitable

0.3 – Rear 4 Pheasants

Garden land. TPO area. Within setting of listed building and adjacent to Conservation Area. No Access.

PLOT 97 – Unsuitable

2.3 - Pound Corner Adjacent Round House

Outside Physical limit. Adjacent to Protected from Development and Conservation area and within setting of listed buildings. Poorly related to village. No Access.

PLOT 739 - Unsuitable

1.6 – Sanctuary Field

Outside Physical limit. Adjacent to Protected from Development and Conservation area and within setting of listed buildings. Poorly related to village. Within the Conservation protected views. No Access. Negative impact on character of area.

PLOT 796 - Unsuitable

West, Hunt Kennels -3.7

Outside Physical limit. Adjacent to Protected from Development and within Conservation area and within setting of listed buildings. Within the Conservation protected views. Poor Access. Negative impact on character of area. Poor access one lane road. The whole of the land involved in plot 796, is Flood meadow, with the river Deben running along its boundary. Following high rainfall and winter months this land becomes completely submerged, the flood water almost reaches the road boundary. This land is essential as Flood Meadow to relieve the pressure of the river Deben.

PLOT 404 (970) – Unsuitable

West School Lane – 0.5

Outside Physical Limit. Adjacent Conservation area. No suitable Access

PLOT 463 (672) – Unsuitable

Cemetery Field

Outside Physical Limit. Adjacent to Conservation area and Historical Parkland. No suitable Access

PLOT 516 – Unsuitable

Osiers – 1.0

Outside Physical Limit. On river valley land that drains to and joins Flood Meadows. Would result in inappropriate visible housing at gateway to village conservation area, creating negative impact on character.

PLOT 740 – Unsuitable

Kettleburgh Rd – 2.3

Outside Physical Boundary. Listed buildings setting. No Access.

PLOT 411 (978) – Unsuitable

East Harriers Walk – 5.1

Outside Physical Boundary. Within designated Historical Parkland. No Access – backfill. Negative impact on character of the area.

PLOT 730 – Unsuitable

The Street – 0.2

This is subject to AP28 as a Protected from development site and is within the Conservation area and within its protected views.

PLOT 738 - Suitable

Easton Farm Park -4.6

This is the site of the Farm Park. This site is suitable for restrained growth for minimal impact business related to tourism and leisure. The infrastructure of small rural roads to connect to the A12 restricts business type. Conditions should ensure restraints regarding transport so that there is no risk of the village connecting roads being subject to major HGV movements.

We look forward to continuing to take part in further consultations regarding the Local Plan review.

Yours sincerely

Sue Piggott

Cllr Sue Piggott
Chair Easton Parish Council